(c) the details of the revenue lost by the civic bodies on the account; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) It has been reported by Delhi Administration that relevant Control Orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act for grant of licences to persons for running fair price shops and kerosene oil depots and to edible oil dealers do not impose any pre-condition of obtaining licence from civic bodies. A person whould have to independently satisfy the requirement of civic laws, if any so prescribed, for obtaining a licence. The Department insists upon a municipal factory licence, if any applicant seeks a producers' licence in Urban Areas of Delhi for units producing/manufacturing pulses and edible oils. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi gives licence to Traders as prescribed in the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act. The Corporation does not grant licence in non-conforming areas except adhoc licence under adhoc policy.

Bogus ration cards in Delhi

3618. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of bogus ration cards in Delhi; whether they are in use in various fair price shops of Delhi;

(b) what steps have been taken by administration to destroy and whether there is any plan to open new fair price shops in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) By the very nature of the problem, it is difficult to have a precise estimate of the number of bogus cards. Delhi Administration has reported that there are .some inflated cereal and sugar units on the ration cards. Verification and elimination of bogus cards/units is done by the officials of the Delhi Administration, who regularly undertake surprise checks in this regard. Powers have been delegated to the State Governments/UT Administratiens including Delhi Administration under the Essential Commodities Act. A special drive was undertaken for elimination of inflated units. During the last seven months about 2.18 lakhs (sugar) units have been deleted by Delhi Administration.

Decisions relating to the opening of fair price shops is taken by the State Governments/UT Administrations, includ ing Union Territory Administrations of Delhi, taken into account the overall need of. the population and the viability of running the fair price shop etc.

Monitoring the prices of certain commodities

3619. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the commodities whose prices are being monitored by Government;

(b) what are the prices of these commodities at present;

(c) the manner in which these prices compare with those in 1990 and 1991; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stabilise increase in the prices of these essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The commodities whose prices being monitored by the Ministry of Civil

Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution are Rice, Wheat, Gram, TUT, Sugar, Gur, Groundnut oil, Mustard Oil, Vanaspati, Tea, Salt, Potatoes and Onions.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the comparative retail prices of these commodities as on 9.12.1992, 11.12.1991 and 12.12.1990 is given in the enclosed Statement. *(See* below)

(d) The Government is taking every possible step to control the prices of essential commodities within reasonable limits. Towards this end, a Cabinet Committee on Prices (CCP) and a Special Action Committee of Secretaries on Monitoring of prices (SACP) arc functioning to review the prices situation in the Country and to take appropriate steps to keep the rise in prices of essential commodities under check. Public Distribution System is being strengthened and streamlined to reach its benifits even to remote, far-flung, hilly arid inacces sible areas. Steps are also being taken to implement the provisions of EC Act, and statutory regulations to punish the anti-social elements including hoarders, black marketeers etc. The commodities which are in short supply such as rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils, etc. are being imported to make their easy availability in the market. Based on the input cost, the Government has been announcing higher minimum support/ procurement prices of agro-based products. There has been a higher production of Kharif Crops and nearby record production of Edible Oil seeds. As a result of all these measures, the annual rate of inflation, measured in terms of percentage vanation in the wholesale Price Index has come down to 8.5% as on 28.11.1992 from • 13.6% as on 28.3.1992 and 14.6% as on 30.11.1991.

Statement

(Retail Price of Essential Commodities at Selected Centres (Rs. per Kg.)

Commodity/ Centres	9.12.1992	11.12.1991	12.12.1990
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Rice			
Delhi	7.00	6.00	5.00
Bombay	8.00	7.40	5.00
Bhubaneshwar	5.00	5.40	3.50
Madras	6.70	6.00	5.00
Wheat			
Delhi	4.50	4.50	3.10
Bombay	7.40	6.80	4.50
Bhubaneshwar	4.60	4.50	3.70
Madras	7.00	6.50	4.25
Gram			
Delhi	10.00	10.00	10.00
Bombay	13.00	11.20	12.00
Calcutta	10.00	9.50	10.00
Madras	11.00	10.00	9.50
Tur			
Delhi	15.00	16.00	14.00
Bombay	16.00	19.00	15.00
Calcutta	15.00*	17.00	15.00
Madras	17.00	18.50	15.00
Sugar			
Delhi	10.00	10.00	9.00
Bombay	9.20	8.80	8.50
Calcutta	9.60*	9.20	9.20
Madras	9.20	8.00	8.00
Gur			
Delhi	7.00	6.00	6.00
Bombay	12.00	9.00	8.00
Bhubaneshwar	9.00	7.50	7.50
Madras	7.00	7.00	7.50
Groundnut Oil			
Delhi	41.00	46.00	40.00
Bombay	34.00	39.00	34.00
Hyderabad	32.00	38.00	31.60
Madras	33.00	37.50	34.00
Mustard Oil			
Delhi	30.00	36.00	32.00
Bombay	38.00*	40.00	34.00
Bhubaneshwar	33.50	39.60	36.00
Madras	37.00*	37.00	32.50
Vanaspati			
Delhi	36.00	44.00	34.50
Bombay	44.00*	50.00	38.00
Calcutta	37.00*	46.00	37.00
Madras	38.00	46.00	40.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Tea (Loose)			
Delhi	55.00	55.00	55.00
Bombay	55.00*	60.00	60.00
Calcutta	50.00*	40.00	42.00
Madras	85.00	70.00	76.00
Salt (Packed)			
Delhi	3.00	2.50	2.00
Bombay	3.00	2.50	2.00
Calcutta	3.00*	2.00*	2.00
Madras	3.00	2.50	2.50
Potatoes			
Delhi	2.50	3.00	2.50
Bombay	3.50	5.50	4.50
Calcutta	2.00*	4.00*	3.50
Madras	3.50	5.50	5.50
Onions			
Delhi	4.00	4.00	7.00
Bombay	3.00	2.00	6.00
Calcutta	2.40*	4.50*	8.00
Madras	3.00	3.00	5.80

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments. * Prices as on the nearest available date.

Racket in Super Bazar drug store

3620. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press newsitem caption "Racket in Super Bazar drug store" as reported in the Indian Express dated 27th November, 1992;

(b) if so, whether the preliminary internal audit of the Super Bazar has revealed gross misappropriation of money by the drugs department;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(d) responsibility fixed by Government in this regard; and

(e) what action Government propose to contemplate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The preliminary audit report of the Super Bazar has not brought to light any gross misappropriation of money in the Drugs Deptt. Preliminary internal audit conducted in the year 1990, suggested certain procedural measures which were duly taken note of and implemented for improving the functioning of the Drugs Department. The Super Bazar has reported that regular review meetings were held to monitor and take action for the improvement of the Drugs Department of Super Bazar. Required procedures are being adopted to maintain records and action is taken against erring employees.

Import of edible oil

3621. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the requirement of edible oil in the country vis-a-vis production and imports made in terms of quantity and value during the past three years, year-wise;

(b) what is the present estimate of oil production and demand for the current year and imports made/proposed with proportion to cost of imported edible oil;

(c) whether Government are making huge imports detrimenting the interests of oil seed producers; and

(d) if so, whether Government have received any representation from the farmers organisation of Gujarat, if so, the details thereof alonwith the action taken thereon and present policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The requirement of edible oil in the country